

Agency Overview

The Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) is one of six agencies under the oversight of the Office of the State Board of Education. Dr. Michael Graham is the Administrator of the Division. IDVR is charged with several major responsibilities: Management of the State/Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Program, State Renal Disease Program, and Extended Employment Services while also and serving as a flow through agency for funding related to the State Epilepsy Program.

The Public Vocational Rehabilitation program is one of the oldest and most successful federal/state programs in American history. Vocational Rehabilitation serves individuals with severe disabilities, which create significant barriers to gaining employment. The average time needed for a person to complete a rehabilitation plan and become employed is thirty-two (32) months, which last year resulted in a 322% increase in client weekly earnings and significant decreases in the need for public support.

The structure of IDVR includes a Field Services Bureau as well as managers who deal with Human Resources, Program Development, Planning and Evaluation, Fiscal Operations, and Information Technology. There are also eight Regional Managers who supervise Field staff in the following regions: Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise East, Twin Falls, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Caldwell, and Boise West.

IDVR has 158 employees/150 FTPs serving in thirty-eight (38) offices throughout the state. Offices are located in Boise, Mountain Home, Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, Lewiston, Orofino, Moscow, Twin Falls, Burley, Pocatello, Blackfoot, Preston, Idaho Falls, Salmon, Rexburg, Caldwell, Nampa, Payette, & Eagle. There is one (1) Central Office, eight (8) Regional Offices; eleven (11) Sub-Offices; six (6) Mental Health Offices; eleven (11) School – Work Offices; and one (1) Corrections Office.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Legal Authority for the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is Idaho Code, 33-2301 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 701, *et seq.*, and is augmented by regulations promulgated and set forth at 34 CFR § 361.1, *et seq.*

Services that may be available include evaluation of rehabilitation potential, vocational guidance and counseling, physical and mental restoration, vocational, academic and other training, job placement and other services, which can reasonably be expected to benefit the individual in terms of employment.

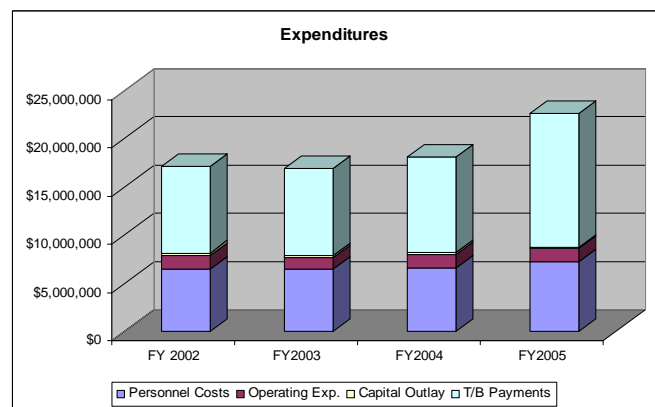
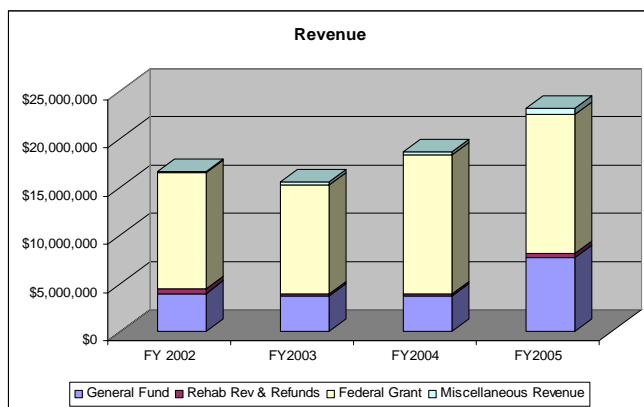
The Division also manages state- appropriated funds to assist individuals with chronic renal failure to help cover the catastrophic costs of this serious, life-threatening disease. The Division coordinates the medical management of this program, and coordinates its payments with the client's ability to pay, private insurance payments, and Medicare and Medicaid payments. (Idaho Code, Chapter 23, Vocational Rehabilitation 33-2307 – 33-2308)

The Extended Employment Services program offers funding for individuals with severe disabilities to receive employment services through Community Rehabilitation programs to develop work skills necessary to be employed. The program includes Community Supported Employment that provides long-term funding for those who require these services to remain employed in community-based employment as well as Work Services.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Idaho is a statewide not-for-profit organization, directed by volunteers and dedicated to helping all individuals in Idaho affected by epilepsy/seizure disorders overcome the associated problems through direct services, increased public and professional understanding, prevention of epilepsy, and the control of epilepsy and its consequences. The Joint Financial Appropriations Committee has designated IDVR as the flow through agency for funding this entity.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$3,939,500	\$3,635,400	\$3,673,000	\$7,676,800
Rehab Rev & Refunds	\$441,100	\$266,800	\$217,600	\$401,000
Federal Grant	\$12,084,200	\$11,277,700	\$14,381,900	\$14,471,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$100,200	\$293,500	\$326,900	\$564,000
Total	\$16,565,000	\$15,473,400	\$18,599,400	\$23,113,000
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$6,516,600	\$6,434,200	\$6,581,900	\$7,249,700
Operating Expenditures	\$1,393,600	\$1,214,200	\$1,380,400	\$1,379,600
Capital Outlay	\$228,500	\$170,600	\$228,900	\$67,800
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$8,955,900	\$9,087,500	\$9,910,200	\$13,931,800
Total	\$17,094,600	\$16,906,500	\$18,101,400	\$22,628,900



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
The number of individuals who went to work after receiving VR services	1,808	1,711	1,799	1,777
The percent of all individuals who went to work after receiving VR services	59.33	60.02	60.5	58.58
The average hourly earnings of all individuals who completed the VR program and went to work	\$8.65	\$7.45	\$7.73	\$8.77
The percentage of individuals who have maintained their employment twelve months after exiting the VR program	.82	.75	.76	.78

**IDVR is primarily a federally funded program that assesses performance on a Federal Fiscal Year basis for consistency. For this reason, chart data represents figures that are six months behind the State Fiscal data reported.*

Performance Highlights

Extended Employment Service Program

On July 1, 2004, the responsibility for long-term employment services was transferred from the Department of Health and Welfare to the IDVR Extended Employment Service program. At that time, 45% (455) of the open clients were being served through Work Services (WS) and 55% (563) were receiving Community Supported Employment services (CSE). The total statewide budget to serve these individuals for FY05 was \$3,845,800.00. As of September 30, 2005, 50% of the 515 new referrals received are currently working or actively pursuing employment with assistance in job site development. Of those working, 65% are in CSE. There are now approximately 1100 clients receiving either Work Services or CSE long-term maintenance, an 8% increase from FY04, with a waiting list of 225 clients. The annual budget for FY06 remains \$3,845,800.00

Cooperative Agreements

IDVR has been successful in working collaboratively with and in securing cooperative agreements with several state agencies to assist our mutual clients to gain employment through the provision of Vocational Rehabilitation services. For many years, IDVR has partnered with school districts statewide in assigning designated VR Counselors to work with youth with disabilities as they transition from school to work. IDVR also works with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Mental Health to provide Vocational Rehabilitation services to clients with severe and persistent mental illness to help them access and maintain successful employment. IDVR recently secured cooperative agreements with both the Idaho Department of Correction and the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections to designate VR Counselors to work with disabled individuals who are incarcerated in both programs to assist them in transitioning back into the community to become employed tax paying citizens. The funds obtained through these cooperative agreements allow IDVR to secure all federal funding available to the State of Idaho for Vocational Rehabilitation and allows IDVR to maximize Vocational Rehabilitation opportunities for Idahoans with disabilities.

Inservice Quality Training Grant

IDVR has been able to secure a Quality Inservice Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Education that will allow the agency to advance its distance learning capabilities statewide through video conferencing technology. This will also provide agency personnel with access to programs at no additional cost through any university system with video conferencing ability, through the Internet. This will reduce the cost of needed training and education for the agency while also broadening its communication options. Since IDVR has had video conferencing capability in the Administrative and Regional Offices, it has been used for Manager meetings, Field Services Employee Council meetings and for other coordinating purposes.

For More Information Contact

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